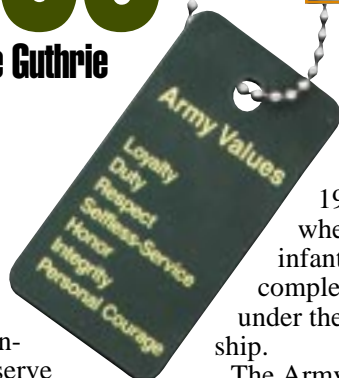


# Soldier Skills, Soldier Values

Story by 1LT Jacqueline Guthrie



**W**HEN young men report to Fort Benning, Ga., to endure the rigorous process that will turn them into infantrymen, it's often Army Reserve drill sergeants from 1st Brigade, 84th Division, who are there to help them succeed. The Reserve soldiers spend two weeks on active duty each year — teaching marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and land navigation; conducting physical training; and instilling Army values.

The test phase of training, called “The Bayonet,” evaluates not only the recruits’ abilities, but also the competence of their trainers. But the primary focus is on “Seven Army Values” training, said CPT Ted Qualls, commander of Company E, 1st Battalion,

19th Infantry Regiment, where more than 200 infantrymen recently completed their training under the Reservists’ leadership.

The Army Values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity and personal courage. While classroom instruction and discussions with individuals and small groups are among the methods used to impart these values, drill sergeants at Fort Benning have also made them an integral part of the other training soldiers receive.

“The Bayonet is a culminating exercise that implements each of the seven values and infantry skills,” Qualls explained. Each training mission requires soldiers to use their newly acquired infantry skills, but also focuses on teaching them a value.

One common basic training tool is

the 25-mile march. During the Bayonet exercise, drill sergeants tied the march to Army values by reminding recruits of the hardships and sacrifices soldiers of the past have endured for present-day freedoms. The first leg of the march took the trainees to the “Rock-Steady Wall,” named in honor of PVT Louis Gideon, a young soldier who single-handedly defended his wounded commander during battle.

At the wall, drill sergeants required recruits to negotiate the steep obstacle under simulated fire and move all men and equipment up and over it.

As shots rang out the platoon leader huddled with squad leaders to develop a plan of action while the rest of the recruits dispersed among nearby trees that provided cover. Then the young men moved quickly to the edges of the wall and built human pyramids, created rope swings and used logs for leverage to move themselves, their equipment and their “wounded” up to the top.

The soldiers continued on their

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**Demonstrating selfless-service, the Army's newest infantrymen transport a "wounded" man to a first-aid station.**

designated several soldiers as being "wounded." The remaining recruits divided the tasks of carrying their buddies or their equipment and moved on to an "aid station" for care.

The soldiers ate MREs and grabbed what sleep they could during their 30-hour mission, but doggedly overcame each new task or obstacle until they had reached the "Rock of Chickamauga" cliff.

Overcoming whatever fear or fatigue they may have felt, the men rappelled down the 60-foot cliff and waded across the icy river that followed.

**A**FTER each mission was completed soldiers reviewed their actions with their drill sergeants, discussed lessons learned and determined which value was most prevalently demonstrated.

"For example, soldiers don't leave their buddies behind," said SSG David Santos, a Co. E drill sergeant. "By

working together and helping each other, the recruits demonstrated loyalty to their comrades."

Values such as personal courage were easily identified in tasks such as rappeling or crossing the river. But recruits also identified values such as devotion to duty and integrity in tasks where they carried the load for others or completed tasks the right way instead

of "cutting corners" to save time or effort.

"This is all about transformation, a transformation from civilian to soldier," explained COL John Schorsch, the Infantry Training Brigade commander. Having the recruits complete each task, then

verbalize what they have learned "shows that they've internalized this stuff," he said.

It's also a transformation from being a soldier in training, led by drill sergeants, to becoming a soldier on a team. Demonstrating the Army values shows that they're ready to be part of the infantry, Schorsch said.

**A**FTER completing all tasks the soldiers marched the final six miles to an area lit by fire barrels and torches. In the flickering light the men dipped their canteen cups into punch-filled barrels and, one by one, they passed under the infantry crossed-rifle arch and assembled to pay honor to Co. E, the training brigade, the Army, and to infantrymen past, present and future.

After the toasts the command sergeant major lit seven torches signifying the seven values. The young men then stood at attention as their drill sergeants, the men who taught them how to be infantrymen, welcomed them to their fraternity by pinning on crossed rifles.

One hundred and ninety men walked back to their barracks not just as soldiers, but as infantrymen. And the last rotation of drill sergeants returned to their quarters knowing everyone had passed the final test. □



**SFC Ben Adams, an instructor in the 84th Division's 1st Training Brigade, shows Infantry soldiers how to navigate a one-rope bridge.**

road march ready to face new challenges, test more skills and learn more about themselves and each other.

The next obstacle they faced was a "mine field" in their path. The only way to proceed was to cross a river. The soldiers' answer was to build a rope bridge and transport themselves and their equipment to the other side.

When shots rang out, drill sergeants

## The 84th Division Mission

**T**HE 84th Div. is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., and has subordinate units in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Iowa and Indiana.

As part of the Army School System, the division provides basic combat training and infantry one-station unit training to active- and reserve-component soldiers; advanced individual training in combat service, combat service support and health services MOSs; and officer training to ROTC cadets. For a more complete mission statement and vacancy information, visit [www.84thdivision.com](http://www.84thdivision.com) — 1LT Jacqueline Guthrie

